

# Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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NUMBER 9

## Christian Unity Exemplified

Dr. John C. Shetler, Minister of the Penn. South Conference, was one of a dozen ranking Christian leaders — Anglican, Protestant, Orthodox, and Roman Catholics — who participated in a footwashing rite during a special ecumenical program at the 41st Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia on August 5.

The Congress, an international meeting sponsored by Roman Catholics, was convened to deepen the understanding and to strengthen the faith among all Christians through the Eucharist, or Holy Communion.

At the ecumenical program, the congregation sang together, heard Scripture together, prayed together, confessed their sins together, and washed each other's feet as brothers and sisters in Christ. Unable to celebrate the Eucharist together, the Christians from many traditions were able to participate in this ancient Christian rite of foot-washing.

As the leaders and congregation sang "Amazing Grace" and "The Church's One Foundation", each of the 12 presiding leaders joined one of the 12 circles made up of 12 persons each. There, each of the participating leaders, having his feet washed, then knelt to wash the feet of the

[Cont. on Page 2]



Ecumenical participation at the 41st Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia.

## A Message From Dr. Robert V. Moss

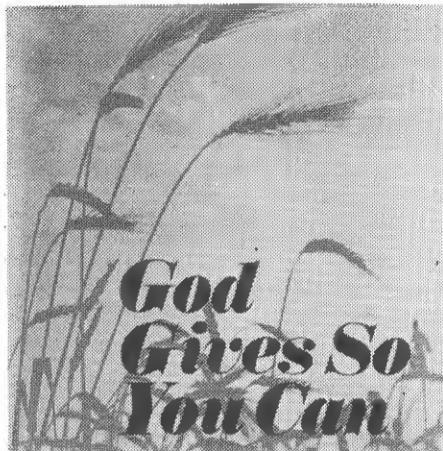
My dear Sisters and Brothers:

There are no words to express my gratitude for the way you have kept my family and me in prayer over the past months. It has sustained and encouraged us as nothing else could. We have a deep new sense of the power of intercessory prayer and of what it means to be a part of the Christian community. I wish I could answer each one of you since you have cheered and helped me so much.

The malignancy with which I contend is a rare but serious type. Whether it will respond to therapy is not yet known. I am grateful for the following action of the Administrative Committee: "The Administrative Committee receives with loving concern the report from the President relative to his illness. The Committee notes that the President continues to carry out the duties of his office through his staff and in consultation with officers of the Church. The Administrative Committee, acting as interim for the Executive Council, supports and sustains the President in this arrangement."

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## God Gives So You Can



One of the distinguishing marks of the Christian faith is a belief in God's initiative and the corresponding belief in human response. As the Letter of John puts it, "We love, because God first loved us" (I John 4:19). The Christian Enlistment theme used by many congregations this fall is "God Gives So You Can" which makes much the same point: we give, because God first gives to us.

What are these gifts which God gives to us? They include life, love, reconciliation, and our redemption in Christ. Each of us would enlarge upon this list in his or her own way, noting personal experiences of God's gracious giving: Health, Opportunity, the blessings of friends and family.

Whatever this private recital of God's manifold gifts reveals, our common response is at once a thanksgiving and an unhesitating reply: We, too, must give. In one sense, we can never give as God gives — generously, without counting the cost. Yet, this is the only way in which a gift becomes a gift.

## World Mission Support Increases

Last year, U.C.C. member contributions to Our Christian World Mission rose from a 1974 per capita giving of \$116 to a 1975 per capita of \$124. This increase (covering only contributions beyond the local Church budget) represents a 7 percent increase. Contributions to local churches increased by 4 percent. (Keeping You Posted)

## The Living Coin Of The UCC Women

By Martha Lauderdale

The Living Coin came into existence in July, 1975, on a trial basis — if it proved successful in the Valley area churches, then it would be introduced to the whole Southeast Conference Area. Since we have grown from an initial group of four churches to 13 churches, we feel it is a success!

The meaning of the Living Coin is "Lending a Helping Hand". This is an organization of only women collecting 10 cents a week for 13 weeks, before turning it in, continuing week after week. We have asked all that turn in the money on the Living Coin to pray over each dime as they put it in their coin holders.

The very first collection taken for the Living Coin amounted to \$68.55. At that time, there were only four churches: West Point, Ga., Bethel, Lanett, Langdale, and Shawmut, Todd, Ala. Since then, we have added eight more churches and SW Ala.—NW Fla. Association.

Eventually, we put the money in a Federal Savings and Loan Assoc., where we could be earning some interest with what was left after each check was sent to the chosen project.

The first project was First C.C. Church of Alex. City, Ala. We plan to send them \$1,000. To date, we have sent \$700, hoping to send the remaining \$300 after the fifth Sunday collection in October.

For further information or coin holders, write: Miss Martha Lauderdale, Financial Sec., 2211-51st St., Langdale, AL. 36864. To send a check, make it out to The Living Coin of UCC Women, and mail to Mrs. Lena Dollar, Treas., Rt. 1, Box 119B, Fairfax, AL. 36854.

## WOMEN'S RALLY HELD AT LANGDALE

Women of our churches in E. Alabama and W. Georgia met in the Langdale CC Church for their regular Fall Rally, September 26.

Special speaker was Mr. Sam Mompongo of the country of Zaire, W. Africa.

Mr. Mompongo organized efforts to build high schools in his community, and in 1976 joined Millard Fuller in organizing the Fund For Humanity for the purpose of building new housing for the poor of Zaire. A new community with 162 houses has been built — an effort we hope will be duplicated in many parts of Africa.

## NEWS NOTES Churches

Alexander City, Antioch; Five Points, State Line; and Barnesville, Fredonia Churches will be 125 years old in 1977.

Central Church, Atlanta, will have Homecoming Services on Sunday, November 7, with a "dinner on the grounds" and each one subscribing to the budget by making a pledge.

East Tallasssee C.C. Church had a Homecoming Service Sunday, October 10, On the theme "Our Heritage—United in Faith". Guest speaker was Rev. Harold Henderson.

Brookmeade's (Nashville) prison ministry is featured in November A.D. Magazine. Accompanying the story is a picture of Bill Hiles, Dodie and Kirby Cannon and Joe Ingle.

In order for the congregation to have a better understanding of the new budget proposed, Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga planned a Pancake Breakfast for Sunday, 8-9:30. During the breakfast time a chance was given for a "walk-through" display of the church at work in Chattanooga and around the world. Questions about the program and proposed budget were asked.

Brookmeade's UCY (Youth) elected a new slate of officers for 1976-77 year: President, Flavia Burton; Vice Pres., Roxanne George; Treas., Scott Bonnell; Sec., Kathy Bonnell. The UCY meets on Sunday evenings at 7 P.M. at the church. All youths in grades 7-12 are invited.

## Bonanza Plans Fellowship Events

### Events

Bonanza UCC, near Jonesboro, Ga., is planning several fellowship opportunities for the fall:

#### 1. Quarterly Family Fellowship:

Families get together, have a meal, and an informal program, with the membership divided alphabetically. Each family has a turn at planning program. The first one will be Dec. 18, at 7 P.M.

#### 2. A Halloween Party at Church, Oct. 29

planned for children of the Bonanza Community to keep them off the street, sponsored by the Board of Christian Education.

#### 3. Anniversary Dinner, November 7th:

To observe the 10th Anniversary of the church, meat being furnished by Men's and Women's Fellowships.

Floyd Carmack, Minister

## Plymouth Celebrates 109th Birthday

Plymouth Congregational Church, UCC, celebrated its one hundred and ninth anniversary on Sunday, April 11, 1976. The service was dedicated to the memory of the late Pastor Emeritus, John T. Enwright. Pastor James R. Fields presided with the Rev. Willie Jefferson, Pastor of Emanuel A.M.E. Church, delivering the sermon.

A social hour was held in the Avery Room following the service.

## Church Family Day At Pilgrim, Birmingham

An all-day meeting at the church was held by Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, on Sunday, October 17. Unlike the horse and buggy days, in travel but similar in feasting and good fellowship, the people came for Sunday School at 9:30, worship at 11, a carry-in lunch at 12:15, with meetings of the boards and committees in the afternoon.

A hot dog roast around the outside barbecue put, songs and vespers brought the day to a close.

## Junior UCY Active At Huntsville

The Junior UCY in Huntsville, United Church was formed in June of this year. Under leadership of the Dale Hatchers and the Bill Chews, the young people sponsored a Pancake Breakfast in July and entered the Northeast Alabama State Fair in September with an exhibit of Christian Symbols. The exhibit won first place — including a blue ribbon and a cash award of \$65.00. The Youth who constructed the fair exhibit were: Richard Babunovic, Holly Cameron, Carol Green, Jimmy Mason, and Cindy Rice.

The group has been very active during the Summer and has a very busy schedule of activities for the Fall, including a trip to Opryland.

### CHRISTIAN UNITY...

[From Page 1]

others in the circle.

Following that symbolic act, Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia urged all to share "the peace of Christ," to "bring us closer to the day when we share the bread of life and heal the hungers of the world."

Using the theme "The Eucharist and the Hungers of the Human Family", each of the eight days focused on a different aspect of hunger — physical hunger and the hunger for truth, justice, worship, understanding, peace, and for Christ.

# NEWS NOTES

## Personals

**Rev. Stephen Gray** is now "full-time" minister of Brookmeade Church, Nashville, TN. Previously serving the Church in the capacity of a "worker-priest", Mr. Gray's position was changed to "full time" by vote of the congregation in Feb. and began in October. This is the first time in Brookmeade's history that a full time pastor will have been supported without aid.

**A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS** from Betsy Hollis: "Your loving good wishes on the happy occasion of our marriage, and your generous monetary gift to start us on our way are much appreciated by Allen and me."

**Bill and Amy Chew** proudly announced the birth of their daughter Jessica Allen Chew, born Sept. 3, 1976.

**Dr. S. Lawrence Johnson** was guest minister at Cullman in St. John's United Church on October 10, 1976. He also preached at Mt. Grove Church in Hanceville, Ala. Dr. Johnson is Pastor Emeritus of Pilgrim United Church in Birmingham.

Funeral services were held Sept. 29, 1976, for **Mr. Albert L. Galloway, Jr.**, son of Mrs. Helen H. Galloway and the late Mr. Albert L. Galloway, Sr., in Plymouth Congregational U.C.C. in Charleston, S.C. Mr. Galloway served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps and the Military Sealift Command. He has been affiliated with Plymouth Church from an early age. He was born in Charleston on February 3, 1941, and educated in South Carolina. Pastor James R. Fields officiated at the funeral services.

## THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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## First Junior UCY Camp Held

The first week-long summer camp ever held for Jr. U.C.Y. members of the Southern Ala. area, ages 8-12, was held August 8-14, 1976, at the Boy Scout Camp just outside West Point, Ga. Forty-three Jr. U.C.Y. members and 11 adults came.

Camp Director was Martha Lauderdale; Business Manager - Lena Dollar; Cooks - Mrs. C.H. Lauderdale and Mrs. Horace Welch; Program Director - Rev. Dwight McQueen; Leaders - Mrs. Dwight McQueen, Mrs. Eric Young, Mrs. John Auler, and Mr. Robert Maddox. Mr. Fred Watts was Life Guard, and Mr. Horace Welch, Recreation Leader.

Camp theme was: "We Too Can Know God", with Bible Study theme being - "These People Knew God". Bible Studies were taken from both Old and New Testaments - Esther and Joshua from the Old, Saul/Paul and Mary Magdalene from the New.

The whole week was a great experience for all present. There were no bad accidents, but plenty to eat and plenty to do. On Wednesday afternoon, we did nothing but have fun - we played bingo, had sack races, relay races, too, a hike to Lost Falls, relaxed and had a great afternoon. That evening, we went swimming, had a watermelon cutting, and ended with Evening Vespers at the swimming pool.

Several parents came during the week to see how their children were doing and got caught in an action game.

Friday night, the campers put on a good program and proved they had learned quite a lot. Camp ended with Communion Services, conducted by Rev. Warren Blankenhorn.

Jr. UCY Camp will be held next year from July 31-August 6, 1977. Mark your calendars. Details will come later.

—Martha Lauderdale, Dir.



Jr. UCY campers with Martha Lauderdale, Director

## Carole Colbert

### Wants To Be Combat Support

Having recently returned from ROTC Leadership training camp at Ft. Riley, Kan., Carole Colbert, daughter of Guy Colbert, Assoc. Minister in N. Alabama, desires combat duty as support to the guys in active combat.

Carole is best known locally, in Hartselle, Ala., for her impressive list of beauty titles, but she does not consider her choice of a career as an officer in the "regular" Army that of a women's libber.

Along with other cadets, Carole used her summer between junior and senior years to fulfill camp requirements. She plans to graduate from University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa in the second Army ROTC class to include females. She also plans to enter the Alabama "Miss Universe Contest" in February.



This picture was taken on Friday afternoon during dress rehearsal for the closing program.

# LOCAL CHURCH GOALS

At the 1973 Conference Annual Meeting the formula by which OCWM Basic Support goals were to be figured was voted by the delegates. Subsequently each of the Associations voted to ratify the Conference vote.

It was agreed that the minimum goal for any church would be an amount equal to 10% of the amount spent for local current expenses, using the latest Year Book figures. Where the amount given for OCWM was more than 7.5% of Current Expenses, the goal should be an additional 2.5% of local current expenses added to the previous achievement. (Ex.: A church gave \$120 for OCWM and had Local Expenses of \$1,000. This equals a 12% ratio. The new goal would be a 14.5% ratio of \$1,000, or \$145.)

Keep in mind that there is always a gap of a year between available figures and the year for which goals are figured.

## ALABAMA-TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION (\*-North Ala. Ass'n.)

Church	1977 Goal
Alpine, King's Chapel	\$ 50
*Arley, C.C.	70
Athens, Trinity	50
Belvidere, First United	3,578
Birmingham, First	3,372
Birmingham, Pilgrim	5,596
*Caddo, First	924
Chattanooga, First	390
Chattanooga, Pilgrim	9,143
Crossville, First	1,668
Cullman, St. John	4,738
Daisy, First	50
Deer Lodge, C.C.	334
Evarts, First	0
Garden City, C.C.	474
Glen Mary, C.C.	50
*Hackleburg, Fairview	50
*Haleyville, Union Grove	423
*Hanceville, Mt. Grove	252
*Houston, Liberty Hill	400
Huntsville, United	1,586
Knoxville, Ch. of the Savior	2,899
Marion, First	250
Montgomery, First	922
*Moulton, Jones Chapel	223
Nashville, Brookmeade	1,549
Nashville, First	3,752
Nashville, Howard	440
Pleasant Hill, Community	3,139
Robbins, Barton Chapel	257
*Steele, Mt. Lebanon	50
Sweetwater, First	540
Talladega, First	443
Tougaloo, Union	250
*Town Creek, Old Liberty	450

## CENTRAL ALABAMA ASSOCIATION

East Tallassee, C.C.	\$ 1,540
Eclectic, Watson Chapel	50
Mountain Creek, Union	738
Seman, Community	335
Tallassee, Mt. Olive	50
Wetumpka, Balm of Gilead	50

## S. ALABAMA-N.W. FLA. ASSOC.

Andalusia, Antioch	\$ 637
Andalusia, First	779
Baker, Good Hope	747
Baker, Pyron Chapel	571
Bonifay, New Effort	304
Brantley, Indian Creek	25
Brantley, Liberty	20
Clio, New Hope	504
Headland, Blackwood	792

## EAST ALABAMA ASSOCIATION

Alexander City, 1st C.C.	\$ 200
Columbus, 1st C.C.	750
Columbus, United	400
Dadeville, Elder	650
Five Points, State Line	100
LaFayette, Pleasant Grove	500
LaGrange, Hillside	900
LaGrange, United	1,275
Lanett, C.C.	5,100
Lanett, Huguley	—
Langdale, C.C.	3,900
Lineville, New Harmony	850
Phenix City, First	500
Phenix City, Russell Woods	1,500
Pine Mountain, Oak Grove	300
Pisgah	400
Roanoke, Antioch	250
Roanoke, Bethany	450
Roanoke, First	250
Roanoke, Forest Home	1,125
Roanoke, Lowell	150
Roanoke, Mt. Zion	500
Roanoke, New Hope	100
Roanoke, Rock Spring	500
Roanoke, Rock Stand	1,200
Shawmut, Todd	—
Wadley, Beulah	400
Wadley, Christian	450
Wadley, Corinth	—
Wedowee, Cavers Grove	550
Wedowee, Noon Day	400
West Point, Bethel	550
Woodbury, Jones Chapel	550

The Rev. J.C. Dollar, one of the sons of the congregation of Lanett Congregational Church, preached at the church on Sunday, October 10. "J.C.", as he is known among the church folks, is on the staff of Elon Home for Children in Elon College, N.C. Accompanied by his family, he made a presentation at the meeting of the East Alabama Association.

## Morgan County Project Enlarges

### Activity

The Morgan-Scott Project, operated jointly by UPUSA and UCC Churches, has now developed several teams to do the work needed: Equal Justice Team, concerned citizens for justice within their communities; some of the same people are in training to deal with counseling problems and basic human needs, or the Mission Team; a Housing and Food Co-op; and the Church Development Team.

To do all these things means more staff and more funding. Two UCC churches of Scott County join in hiring Mark Frey, who will split his time between pastoral and Project duties. His wife, Margee, has been hired as a teacher/counselor with the Home-School. The UPUSA and UCC churches in Morgan County have hired Randy Gehres as their pastor and will share his time and expenses with the Project. The Equal Justice Team has found an attorney named Ross Alderman, who has agreed to volunteer time as Project Attorney while opening a Legal Service Program under Title XX.

The Good Earth Project, funded by the Presbyterian Church US, tries to fulfill the need for less expensive methods of gardening and buying canned food and supplies. A tractor has been purchased for plowing gardens.

### Give Youth Magazine

Give YOUTH for Christmas at the Special Holiday Rate —  
1st one year gift — \$6.00  
Each additional gift — only \$5.00  
Order YOUTH magazine from:  
Room 1203  
1505 Race Street  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19102

### GEORGIA-SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION

Ambrose, Christian	\$ 180
Atlanta, Carroll Heights	50
Atlanta, Central	12,378
Atlanta, First	6,116
Atlanta, Rush Memorial	1,102
Barnesville, Fredonia	80
Beachton, Evergreen	225
Bowman, Liberty	258
Braselton, Macedonia	568
Buford, Duncan's Creek	437
Charleston, Circular	3,400
Charleston, Plymouth	1,438
Demorest, Federated	362
Jonesboro, Bonanza	3,313
Macon, First	50
McIntosh, Midway	1,150
Richland, First	50
Savannah, First	1,209
Thomasville, Bethany	202

# VILLA INTERNATIONAL ATLANTA

**What is it?** Villa International is a hostel and a ministry serving overseas guests, most of whom are Public Health officials or other medical personnel in their countries and attending the U.S. Government's Center for Disease Control (CDC) for short periods.

**Why is it?** Because some Christian individuals saw the need for low-cost housing and Christian hospitality for the more than 500 international persons who come to CDC each year from 90 to 100 different countries.

**How is it operated?** The denominations who contribute funds for operating costs and personnel to serve on the Board through their southeastern judicatories are the Lutheran Church of America; Presbyterian Church, U.S.; Roman Catholic; United Church of Christ; and United Methodist. Individuals from other denominations also serve on the Board of Trustees as members-at-large as well, as do representatives from Church Women United of Georgia.

The building was constructed in 1972 with funds of a special gift from the women of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.

The Director, the Reverend Thomas T. Biggs, and his family live at Villa International and make it a real "home away from home" for the international guests through a varied program of hospitality and friendship.

**What is the response?** Former guests of Villa have written many letters of appreciation after they have returned home. Recently several guests have said, "Is there not a Villa International in Miami, in New York, or in San Francisco? We need one."

#### What are its needs?

1. The interest and prayers of all Christians that its ministry will respond helpfully to the varied opportunities for service.

2. Volunteers who will give time to the international guests, both by serving at Villa as hosts and by opening their homes to and using their cars for the guests. Families living outside the metropolitan Atlanta area might invite guests for a day or a weekend to enjoy being in a new setting.

3. Groups who will give memorial gifts to an endowment or reserve fund.

4. Individuals who will become Friends (\$25), or Sponsors (\$500), or Patrons (\$1,000) of Villa International.

5. Congregations who will give "over and above" gifts to help underwrite this important witness.

6. Congregations of every denomination to learn about Villa International and to offer prayers of thanksgiving for what God has done through this instrument of witness to His love.

## Youth Center Fund Day Set By Gov. Wallace



Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace proclaimed Sunday, Oct. 17, as Frank Lee Youth Center Chapel Fund Day in Alabama. On this day, statewide appeal was made to churches and Alabamians to give generously to the Frank Lee Youth Center Chapel Fund.

Located in Deatsville, the Youth Center was established in 1964 as a minimum security facility for first felony male offenders (ages 14-23), who have been convicted as adult felons.

Freddie Powell of the Mt. Olive Church, Talladega, Ala., and Leonard Smith of the Seman Church were instrumental in

starting the fund for the chapel. Central Alabama Association has given several different times to this cause. The money raised will be used for materials, since the inmates at FLYC want to build the chapel themselves.

In Gov. Wallace's proclamation, he said, "A house of worship will help change the values of many youth assigned, so that this assignment may be their last encounter with prison."

Brochures containing sorted information about FLYC can be obtained by writing to P.O. Box 1110, Montgomery, Alabama 36102.

## IMPORTANCE OF MUSIC IN RELIGION

Nov. 12 - Dorchester Improvement Association

Nov. 14 - Stewardship Sunday

Nov. 25 - Thanksgiving

Nov. 28 - First Sunday in Advent

Dec. 3, 4 - Board of Directors, Southeast Conference

Dec. 25 - Christmas

(Use UCC Desk Calendar and Plan Book, 1976-77, for Scripture Reading each Sunday of Advent and Christmas.)

May 24, 1977 - Ministers' Convocation, Camp Sumatanga, Gallant, AL.

## OFFICIAL CALL

Announcement is hereby made of the meeting of the Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ to be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C., beginning at 8:30 A.M. Friday, July 1, 1977, and continuing through 10 P.M. Tuesday, July 5, 1977.

For the Executive Council of the General Synod:

Robert V. Moss, President  
Joseph H. Evans, Secretary

To many people music is something for casual entertainment, often taken for granted. We can listen to such music while driving on the highway, or in a bank or a doctor's office. We can carry it around in the form of a pocket radio. In some places it is even piped in elevators. What passes for music is everywhere, invading our privacy. Its over-abundance cheapens it. Professor Otto Luening, a noted composer and teacher, has speculated that we may see the day when we have not only "music to dine by" but "music to listen to music by." (Let's hope he was joking.)

Under these conditions it is hard to see that real music is a gift from God. God gave it to man so that he could find solace and develop his abilities, and at the same time glorify his Creator. Thus, music may be said to have three interrelated functions: Therapeutic, artistic, and purely religious.

Mrs. Etta Ogden, Choir Director,  
Federated Church, Demorest, Ga.

## CHURCH NEEDS NO MONEY

Some people take a very dim view of a church asking for money to maintain its program and staff. If you are one of them, read on!

We have discovered a way for a church to meet its responsibilities without money. Will you cooperate? Each member will come to services suitably dressed to eliminate any necessity for heating or cooling the building. This will dispose of the fuel bill.

Each person will come to church with broom and mop to keep his part of the building presentable. Then a paid custodian will not be necessary.

Each member will bring materials and tools to remodel and repair the building. Here we can really save!

Each member will spend some time working in the church office. If anyone desires a copy of the church bulletin or Newsletter, he will bring supplies for printing same. Eliminate office help and equipment.

Each member will take a turn preaching, leading services, conducting funerals, performing marriages, calling on new members and new people, visiting sick and guiding the administration of the church. This will save expense of a clergy.

Each must agree to spend at least a year as missionary at his own expense in some foreign field.

Thus we can be known as the "Church That Needs No Money". What a spectacle it will make as men and women, boys and girls, bundled up head to foot, walk dutifully to church carrying water bottles, brooms, dust mops, sheet music, sermon manuscripts, flashlights, saws, hammers, and other baggage! Isn't this a great deal? A new day is dawning for the "church that needs no money"!

Would you really wish it this way? If not, give God ten percent of your income, and the church can operate in the Scriptural manner, with a tithe of its members' income.

### Services for Dr. Moss

Dr. Robert V. Moss, president of the United Church of Christ, died Monday, Oct. 25. He had been ill for two months following surgery.

Memorial services were held Thursday, Oct. 28 at the First Congregational Church in Montclair, N.J.

Memorials may be sent to the World Council of Churches or to the Memorial Fund of Union Congregational Church, 176 Cooper Ave., Upper Montclair, N.J. 07043.

## Missionary on a Motorbike

When United Church of Christ missionary Guy Alling arrived in the town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island off the coast of Sierra Leone in West Africa last summer, he came in style - clutching his suitcase while riding on the back of a Yamaha motorbike driven by an energetic young Irish priest. Later Guy, who is the director of the Christian Health Association of Sierra Leone (CHASL), joined the priest, who also administers the Bonthe Mobile River Clinic. The trip from the island to the mainland was between many small islands, around sandbanks and shoals, then into crocodile-infested swamps and river estuaries.

The clinic visits each of sixteen remote villages on a once-a-month schedule, the only western-type medical service available. When they arrived, the three-person-team — a nurse, a dispenser, and a clerk, all Sierra Leoneans — set up shop in the community center. The majority of patients seen this particular day were children under five years of age.

Guy Alling reports that this Mobile Clinic represents the healing ministry of the church at its very best. The people in the village visited were almost entirely animists, believers in spirits. The Christian faith of the team mem-

bers could not, he says, be missed. Later, the priest, in his quiet way, will begin working with these people, telling them the Good News and bringing some of them into acceptance of Jesus Christ and his message to all people.

Guy notes further that it was from Sherbro Island in 1839 that the slave ship Amistad sailed on its fateful journey to North America. It was on this ship that the slaves mutinied, escaped, and were aided and defended by predecessors of our denomination in Connecticut who formed an organization, Friends of the Amistad, which became the American Missionary Association, now a part of United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

## Amazing What A Little Change Can Do!

### A MESSAGE... [From Page 1]

Meanwhile, now at home, I am engaged in a struggle, the outcome of which is still uncertain. Whatever that may be, I face that future in confidence of our faith and with the knowledge that you are at my side.

In His name I greet you.

Robert V. Moss

#### NOTE:

In a more recent news release, Dr. Moss announced that he would not stand for reelection when his term ends next October.

In a letter to the Nominating Committee for the General Synod, he stated: "I have decided that if, in the providence of God, my life is spared, it will be a sign to me to consider a new ministry. I have loved each moment of these last seven years, but the time has come for new leadership."

In announcing his retirement from the Presidency, Dr. Moss pointed out that the United Church has "in 19 short years developed unity and a sense of community as it has struggled to be faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my fellow Christians," he said, "that I was given a chance to be a servant in these times of challenge."

I once knew a man who was getting tired of his wife. He said he still loved her but just wasn't attracted to her anymore. His wife came to see me and confided tearfully that she was afraid she was losing her husband. As I looked at her sitting across the desk from me, I understood clearly the root of the problem. The poor woman was still on the bright side of middle age, but her face reminded me of yesterday's fried eggplant.

There was also in the church a spicy old saint in her eighties whom I could trust. After eliciting from her a vow of secrecy, I asked her to suggest tactfully to my friend's wife what she might do to ameliorate the eggplant effect.

The following Sunday morning my heart sank when I saw my friend sitting in the congregation with a Cheshire cat grin on his face, surreptitiously holding the hand of a strange woman! It was all I could do to get through the sermon. Greeting the people as they filed out after the service, I dreaded the inevitable encounter with this rat for an excuse of a man who had so little respect for his spurned wife that he brought his swinging new girl friend to church with him.

When the man and his girl friend came near to me, I couldn't help admiring the stunning beauty — his woman in spite of the fact that she was a brazen hussy. Then it hit me! The stunning hussy was actually the man's wife — with a new style!

Our church sanctuary is like my friend's wife in a way. She needs renovating!

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